

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ8282

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DINT-00	DODE-00
	DOE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00
	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00
	AC-01	NSAE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PC-01	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/008W

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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0286  
INFO NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 003410

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR JENDAYI FRAZER  
LONDON FOR CHARLES GURNEY  
PARIS FOR CHARLES NEARY  
NAIROBI FOR TERRY PFLAUMER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/15/11  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [ZI](#)  
SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE: FEW CHANGES EXPECTED AT UPCOMING  
ZANU-PF CONFERENCE

CLASSIFIED BY POLOFF TODD C. FAULK FOR REASONS: 1.5 (B)  
AND (D).

1. (C) SUMMARY: THE ZIMBABWE RULING PARTY'S ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 13-16 IN  
VICTORIA FALLS. NO MAJOR CHANGES IN THE ZANU-PF  
LEADERSHIP ARE EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED, AND THE  
CONFERENCE IS LIKELY TO REAFFIRM PRESIDENT MUGABE AS THE  
PARTY'S CANDIDATE FOR NEXT YEAR'S ELECTION. OUR  
INTERLOCUTORS TELL US THAT THE DATES OF THE PRESIDENTIAL  
ELECTION WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ANNOUNCED UNTIL AFTER  
ZANU-PF WRAPS UP ITS ANNUAL DOG AND PONY SHOW. END  
SUMMARY.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN THE WORKS  
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2. (C) FRED SHAVA, ZANU-PF'S DIRECTOR OF  
ADMINISTRATION, CONFIRMED WITH POLOFF ON NOVEMBER 13  
THAT ZANU-PF'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN  
VICTORIA FALLS DECEMBER 13-16. ABOUT 7,000 DELEGATES  
REPRESENTING ALL 10 PROVINCES (THE PROVINCIAL COUNCILS  
WILL SELECT THEIR DELEGATES OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS)  
WILL BE ASSEMBLED UNDER A GIGANTIC TENT ON THE GOLF  
COURSE OF A LOCAL RESORT. HARARE DIPLOMATS WILL BE  
INVITED TO ATTEND THE OPENING CEREMONY -- LIKELY TO BE  
HELD DECEMBER 14, A DAY AFTER REGISTRATION IS COMPLETED  
-- AND EMBASSIES SHOULD RECEIVE THEIR INVITATIONS BY THE  
END OF THE MONTH, THE DIRECTOR NOTED. SHAVA DESCRIBED  
THE CONFERENCE AS THE PARTY'S ANNUAL "MANAGEMENT  
REVIEW," WHICH IS DIFFERENT FROM A FIVE-YEAR CONGRESS.  
A CONGRESS IS TASKED WITH ELECTING THE PARTY'S 280-  
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MEMBER CENTRAL COMMITTEE, WHEREAS NO LEADERSHIP CHANGES  
CAN BE MADE AT A CONFERENCE, SHAVA ASSERTED. DEPUTY  
JUSTICE MINISTER PAUL MANGWANA TOLD POLOFF NOVEMBER 1  
THAT IT IS AGAINST ZANU-PF'S CONSTITUTION TO CHANGE THE  
PARTY LEADERSHIP OUTSIDE OF A FIVE-YEAR CONGRESS.  
CHANGES IN THE POLITBURO WERE MADE AT LAST YEAR'S  
CONGRESS ONLY BECAUSE THE PARTY CONSTITUTION HAD BEEN  
CHANGED TO PERMIT IT. (NOTE: LAST YEAR'S ANNUAL  
GATHERING QUALIFIED AS A "SPECIAL" CONGRESS TO CONCLUDE  
UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM 1999'S FIVE-YEAR CONGRESS. END  
NOTE.) WHEN ASKED ABOUT THIS YEAR'S AGENDA, SHAVA COYLY  
REMARKED THAT IT HAS NOT COME OUT YET, BUT SAID A  
"REAFFIRMATION" OF MUGABE'S CANDIDACY FOR NEXT YEAR'S  
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IS LIKELY.

A FEW LAST-MINUTE ADJUSTMENTS?  
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3. (C) THE OCTOBER 26 EDITION OF THE "ZIMBABWE  
INDEPENDENT" CLAIMED THAT THE ZANU-PF POLITBURO WILL BE  
EXPANDED AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO BRING IN MORE HELP  
FOR THE ELECTION. THE ARTICLE CLAIMED THAT THE  
COMMISSARIAT, WHICH DIRECTS ELECTION EFFORTS, WILL BE  
EXPANDED WITH TWO NEW DEPUTY SECRETARIES, INFORMATION  
MINISTER JONATHAN MOYO WILL HEAD A NEW INFORMATION,

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND COMMISSARIAT SUB-COMMITTEE, AND  
NICHOLAS GOCHE WILL DIRECT A NEW TRANSPORT AND SECURITY  
SUB-COMMITTEE. IDEN WETHERELL, EDITOR OF THE  
"INDEPENDENT," TOLD POLOFF NOVEMBER 6 THAT NOW IS NOT  
THE TIME FOR MUGABE TO REDUCE THE POLITBURO OR PUNISH  
ENEMIES WITHIN THE PARTY -- HE NEEDS ALL THE HELP HE CAN  
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GET. THE ZANU-PF POLITBURO NOW FUNCTIONS AS THE  
NATION'S CABINET -- THE REAL CABINET, IN MUGABE'S VIEW,  
IS FILLED WITH "WEAKLINGS AND LIGHTWEIGHTS" -- AND IT  
WILL BE EXPANDED TO MEET THE ELECTORAL CHALLENGE AHEAD,  
WETHERELL OPINED.

14. (C) IN SPEAKING TO ACTING PARTY COMMISSAR SIKHANYISO  
NDLOVU ON NOVEMBER 8, POLOFFS LEARNED THAT MUGABE  
PROBABLY WILL APPOINT A NEW COMMISSAR AT THE ZANU-PF  
CONFERENCE, BUT NDLOVU REFUSED TO SPECULATE WHETHER IT  
WOULD BE HIM. WHEN ASKED IF NEW YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
MINISTER ELLIOT MANYIKA WAS FAVORED FOR THE KEY POST,  
NDLOVU SAID HE WAS A POSSIBILITY. WITH A TOUCH OF  
BITTERNESS, THE ACTING COMMISSAR COMPLAINED ABOUT  
WORKING FOR FORMER COMMISSAR BORDER GEZI, WHO DIED IN AN  
APRIL CAR ACCIDENT. HE DESCRIBED GEZI AS UNEDUCATED AND  
IMMATURE. NDLOVU NOTED THAT HE WAS NOW CONDUCTING A  
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF ZIMBABWE'S DEMOGRAPHICS TO LEARN  
WHICH AREAS AND GROUPS ARE BEST TO TARGET FOR THE  
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. THE JUNE 2000 PARLIAMENTARY  
ELECTIONS WERE RUN BASED ON THE OUTDATED 1992 CENSUS,  
BUT THAT MISTAKE WOULD NOT BE MADE THIS TIME, HE ASSURED  
US.

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P 151242Z NOV 01  
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ELECTION DATE STILL A MYSTERY  
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15. (C) WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE TIMING OF THE  
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, DIRECTOR SHAVA STATED THAT IT WAS  
"ENTIRELY UP TO THE PRESIDENT'S DISCRETION." HE REFUSED  
TO ELABORATE ON WHEN THE DATE MIGHT BE ANNOUNCED,  
STATING THAT THE WINDOW FOR THE ELECTION WAS WELL-  
DEFINED BY THE CONSTITUTION. SHAVA THEN VOLUNTEERED  
THAT IT IS WITHIN THE PRESIDENT'S AUTHORITY TO DELAY AN  
ELECTION, AND EFFECTIVELY EXTEND HIS TENURE, IF THE  
COUNTRY IS AT WAR, THERE IS A NATURAL DISASTER THAT  
PREVENTS VOTERS FROM GOING TO THE POLLS, OR A STATE OF  
EMERGENCY IS DECLARED. IDEN WETHERELL REMARKED THAT HE  
DOES NOT BELIEVE MUGABE WILL ANNOUNCE THE ELECTION DATE  
DURING THE ZANU-PF CONFERENCE BECAUSE HE "DOESN'T WANT  
TO PUT ALL HIS CARDS ON THE TABLE." INSTEAD, HE WILL  
WAIT AS LONG AS LEGALLY POSSIBLE. MUGABE WILL STAND FOR  
RE-ELECTION, THE EDITOR OFFERED, BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT  
IS CONVINCED THAT HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE "THE  
REVOLUTION" THROUGH. NDLOVU TOLD US A MARCH DATE HAD  
BEEN RECOMMENDED TO THE PRESIDENT BUT THAT MUGABE HAS  
NOT YET MADE A DECISION.

COMMENT

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16. (C) THIS YEAR'S ZANU-PF CONFERENCE IS SHAPING UP TO  
BE AN EVEN BIGGER NON-EVENT THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS.  
GONE ARE EVEN THE USUAL RUMORS OF WHOLESALE CHANGES IN  
THE PARTY LEADERSHIP OR "YOUNG TURK" REVOLTS. ZANU-PF  
MEMBERS APPEAR RESIGNED TO THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF  
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MUGABE AT THE HELM AND ARE STAKING THEIR POLITICAL  
FUTURES ON HIS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY. ALTHOUGH A FEW  
MINOR RESHUFFLES OR ADDITIONS TO THE POLITBURO MAY OCCUR  
-- ELLIOT MANYIKA LOOKS LIKE A SHOE-IN FOR PARTY  
COMMISSAR -- MUGABE IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE TACK SO NEAR  
THE END OF THE RACE, EVEN IF THE BOAT IS TAKING ON  
WATER. THE CONFERENCE WILL LIKELY SERVE AS ANOTHER  
AVENUE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO WHIP UP SUPPORT FOR HIS LAND  
PROGRAM AND TO REENERGIZE THE PARTY FAITHFUL. END  
COMMENT.

SULLIVAN

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